

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LONDON 08798 311706Z

70

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 NEA-10 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15 RSR-01 /132 W

----- 100889

R 311655Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3019

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 08798

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: MARR, SEATO

SUBJECT: SEATO TRAINING EXERCISE PX 49

REF: STATE 149072

1. WE DISCUSSED SEATO TRAINING EXERCISE PX 49 WITH FCO'S SEATO AFFAIRS OFFICER PAWLEV WHO SAID THAT HMG'S REACTION TO AUSTRALIAN DECISION NOT TO PARTICIPATE HAD BEEN ONE OF DEEP REGRET. HE SAID A STRONG PROTEST HAD BEEN SENT THROUGH THE MILITARY NET AND THAT EVERYTHING HAD BEEN DONE TO INDICATE BRITISH DISPLEASURE SHORT OF A FORMAL PROTEST. AT SAME TIME, THOUGH BRITISH WERE WILLING TO PARTICIPATE WITH OR WITHOUT AUSTRALIA, THEY MADE IT CLEAR THAT THEY COULD NOT OFFER REPLACEMENTS FOR AUSTRALIAN UNITS NOR WERE THEY WILLING TO ASSUME DIRECTORSHIP.

2. PAWLEY SAID HE HAD HEARD FROM NEW ZEALAND EMBOFF THAT US WAS NOW OPPOSED TO GOING AHEAD WITH EXERCISE. WE SAID
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PAGE 02 LONDON 08798 311706Z

WE HAD NO INFORMATION THAT SUCH WAS CASE AND INDEED FACT

THAT WE WERE ASKED TO SEEK HMG'S VIEWS INDICATED THAT
USG HAD NOT YET TAKEN DECISION. PAWLEY REPLIED THAT HMG
HAD BEEN OPERATING ON ASSUMPTION THAT EXERCISE WAS OFF,
BUT WOULD CERTAINLY BE AMENABLE TO RESCHEDULING IT AT A
LATER DATE IF THAT WOULD MAKE AUSTRALIAN PARTICIPATION
POSSIBLE. "WE LIKE EXERCISES", HE SAID.

SOHM

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Message Attributes

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